



# SOUTHEAST NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Volume 40, Number 1  
February 1992

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## **Evangelism Institute's 3rd Session Is April 2-4**

Jackie McMakin, a consultant and author, will be the Bible study leader and theme presenter for the three-day Evangelism Institute III in the Southeast Conference.

The Institute, the final program in a three-year series, will be held Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 2-4, at Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Atlanta.

Other presenters will be Martie McMane and Alan Johnson of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and co-directors of the Institute, who participated in the previous two Institutes in Atlanta.

The program is designed to help people and churches to respond to God's call; to empower a serving community; and to discover more effective ways to be in the ministry to others.

Ms. McMakin, a lay person who is co-author of three books on faith and lay development, will have three sessions entitled, "Discovering Our Call," "Vision and Call" and "Sounding the Call."

She is with "Doorways," a consulting and training organization focused toward faith communities. She also co-founded "Working from the Heart," a non-profit organization which does research, training and advocacy related to integration of values and vocation.

She has co-authored "Doorways to Christian Growth" with Rhoda Nary, "Working from the Heart" with Sonya Dyer; and "How to Prevent Lay Leader Burnout" with Roy Oswald.

In addition, the Institute will include six seminars on related themes and on practical aspects of evangelism.

Registration fee for the Institute is \$50, which includes program materials and most meals, but not lodging. Registration deadline is March 5.

The program is recommended for church teams of at least three persons, including the pastor, who are involved or are interested in faithful membership growth and evangelism in their local church.

The Institutes are part of a national program for local United Church of Christ congregations sponsored by the Division of Evangelism and Local Church Development, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

For further information and registration materials, call the Southeast Conference office in Atlanta at (404) 633-5655.

## **Visions '91 Just Keeps On Giving**

Call it the campaign that just keeps on giving.

Though the Visions '91 financial campaign was to end officially on December 31, donations are continuing to pour in. As a result, the Visions '91 Committee expects to reach its \$200,000 Challenge Goal, even if belatedly.

"We'll be over the top from gifts still coming in," said Dr. Erna Bryant, chair of Visions '91. "Within the last two weeks we have received several major gifts," she said. "One included \$1,000 given in the honor of a former pastor."

As of January 29, the Visions '91 had raised \$182,572. Of that, \$98,206 was in actual cash, a high proportion for three-year pledge campaigns. "About half of the Challenge Goal has been received in cash," said Dr. Bryant. "We have upfront receipts higher than that of fund-raising efforts whose goals are in the millions."

Launched last year, the Visions '91 campaign had a Basic Goal of \$150,000 and a Challenge Goal of \$200,000.

The effort will provide foundational support to Southeast Conference activities. Funds are designated to support new and renewed churches; leadership training; communication of identity and mission; a new Conference office, and a Conference endowment fund.

"Considering the impact of the current recession on congregations and their members, the response to the campaign is gratifying and inspiring," said Dr. Bryant.

They should be sent to the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.

## **Board Trims Budget For Fiscal Year 1992**

Because giving to Our Church's Wider Mission rose less than projected in 1991, the Board of Directors of the Southeast Conference has revised the 1992 budget downward.

OCWM receipts in 1991 totaled \$174,344.77 instead of \$193,896 projected for the fiscal year. Giving in 1991 is 3 percent higher than in the previous year.

Judicatories of other denominations in the southeastern United States have been heavily impacted by the current recession. Several have experienced actual drops in giving.

"Obviously, giving levels were not as high as we projected, but the growth in giving despite the hard times is encouraging," said the Rev. Roger Knight, Conference Minister.

The Conference also embarked on a major fund-raising campaign during 1991. Direct cash gifts by churches and members to the Visions '91 campaign totaled nearly \$98,000.

Income for the Conference in 1991 was \$229,163.23, a shortfall of \$36,999.77. Because of decreased expenditures the Conference ended the year with a \$2,104.59 surplus.

OCWM receipts grew in the Alabama-Tennessee and Georgia-South Carolina associations, but fell in the East Alabama-West Georgia and South Alabama-Northwest Florida association. Georgia-South Carolina had the largest jump in giving, \$6,714.33 or a 12 percent increase.

The action of the Board reduces the 1992 budget to \$235,000, based on an OCWM increase of about \$3,000.

In other action, the Board of Directors voted to take steps to rectify the situation of Center Church in Atlanta.

The property of the defunct congregation was originally conveyed to the church provided that it was used by the Congregational Christian Church and its successors. The surviving trustees apparently have used it for other purposes. The Board also empowered the Executive Committee to proceed with legal action, if necessary.

In addition, the Board approved the appointment of Dr. Erna Bryant to fill the vacant position of Vice-Moderator. It also approved Lester Ariail as Treasurer and Paul Johnson as Chair of the Personnel Committee. Both positions are vacant.

On the recommendation of the Program Committee, the Board approved creating a January-to-December program year in place of the current June-to-May year.

The meeting was held at the recently renovated Gwinnett Community United Church of Christ in Lilburn, GA.

### **Southeast Conference Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year 1991**

	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>
<b>Income</b>	229,196.23	258,696.00	-29,499.77
<b>Expenses</b>	227,091.64	257,064.84	29,973.20
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	2,104.59	1,641.16	463.43

## **CONFERENCE COMMENTS:**

### **A New Year and New Hope**

Dear Friends:

The New Year is here. Like many of you, I find myself grateful and hopeful with the start of 1992. But like many of you too, I find myself in sorrow at the death of Franklin Thomas.

Franklin served the Conference in many ways. He was on the Search Committee when I was called as Conference Minister. We are all indebted to him, and I shall miss his wisdom and counsel.

In reflection, the dedication and churchmanship of Franklin Thomas brings home the importance of church leaders to the vitality of the local and wider church:

1. As a Conference, we rely on leaders. The vitality of the local church is dependent on quality leaders, too. Our business is to call forth, train and support persons to become courageous and responsible leaders for this generation as the next generation. This task is foremost for us.

2. Churchmanship molds leaders and grow churches. The plans of churches are hollow without pastors and church leaders who have passion and commitment.

Ask these questions about leadership when planning for your church: “Who can be counted on?”; “Is there enough commitment to dare make a difference?”; and “Is there drive to carry through?” If such leaders don’t exist and you can’t answer the questions positively, little will happen.

Furthermore, the teaching role of the pastor about the Bible and the historic faith is crucial to church life. Weekly worship is the Word for our Times, which is really the Bread of Life for our hungry souls.

3. We can create patterns and practices of church life that give birth, or we can breed patterns and practices that destroy.

We’ve all seen practices continuing for generations in churches that shut out some people and new possibilities. In those churches, they often wonder why the church doesn’t attract new people. (Sometimes I think an exorcism is needed to remove these spirits of bitterness and to allow in a new spirit. Is that a strange thought?)

But on the other hand, surprisingly there are always gracious hands and hearts who reach to share, speak a word and give beyond their means. The support for Visions ’91 is an example. We are humbled and overwhelmed by God’s surprising and unknown Saints!

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So in the New Year—beginning my fourth with you in this Conference—I cross the threshold of 1992 in hope because of gratitude for God’s unfailing love and blessed assurance.

Like Franklin Thomas, you and I love the church. With his example in our memory, let us together continue as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

Peace,  
Roger Knight

## **GUEST COLUMN: Visions ’91: The Conference Butterfly**

**By Dr. Erna Bryant**

Recently I read an article about the “beauty of change,” It said that change is inevitable, and suggested that many people believe the universe is “movement—a continuous flow of God’s giving to us.” The article continued: “God’s giving is available to us all, but only in the way that each of us can best tolerate or accept it.”

Change is but the letting go of “this” and the taking on of “that” for personal and corporate betterment.

One of the best examples of the beauty of change is the metamorphosis of the caterpillar. We consider it to be a lowly insect crawling to its destiny—beautiful in its own way. It appears locked into a ground-level existence, even though it is able to crawl up objects of great height.

But even the caterpillar enters a period of apparent inactivity in a cocoon. In the words of the article: “There seems to be no resistance to change; no going back on its decision; no regrets or longing for the past; no impatience of something happening now. It seems that its only goal is to be; to trust God; to have faith in something bigger than itself, while it is becoming.”

Eventually a day comes when it seems as if the caterpillar decides to become more; to break all bonds; to come out of this lowly bondage even though it has been in a beautiful, but limiting existence.

The caterpillar is transformed. It emerges from its warm, comfortable cocoon and becomes a unique being. It is totally changed. It is called by a new name—and it is more beautiful than before. A butterfly, a new creation has emerged. Its self-limitation has been transformed. It has a new awareness of its strength and its ability to soar. Thus the beauty of change—giving up the old for the new.

Some of us in the Conference can recall that such an act of change occurred the day the Board of Directors voted to become empowered through the Visions ’91 Campaign. And most recently, during the early weeks of January, new butterflies appeared—expressing their beauty, their strength and confidence by their generous contributions to Visions ’91. They join the many others who have become “butterflies” through their sacrificial and faith-filled gifts.

The act of giving is an act of self-transformation. A new quality of life comes to people who give. The Visions campaign has received \$182,000 in commitments, with over \$90,000 paid in cash. We believe that the Endowment Fund part of the campaign will reach its goal of \$50,000 soon, and the Conference will be able to receive the matching gift of \$50,000.

Already the success of our Visions ’91 campaign is transforming our Conference. The Conference will be able to address the goals of Visions ’91: a) renewing and establishing churches; b) enriching leadership; c) communicating our identity as a denomination; and d) relocating and upgrading the Conference’s office facilities.

We are so close to accomplishing our Challenge Goal that we are asking those people who have not made a commitment to do so now. Once more we invite those few churches who have not yet joined the Visions ’91 campaign to make a special effort to share in the complete success of the Visions ’91 goal.

February has been described as the month of Love. Please express your love for your church and the future of our children by completing a commitment form and sending it to the Conference office today. "What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."

*Dr. Erna Bryant is chair of the Visions '91 campaign and a member of Central Congregational United Church of Christ.*

## Cluster Meetings Planned With UCC Insurance Staff

A series of cluster meetings will be held March 16-18 for churches in the Southeast Conference on the United Church of Christ Insurance Advisory Board.

Paul E. Mitchell, Eastern staff person for IAB, will be available to meet with interested persons on the low-cost, comprehensive insurance program for UCC churches.

Churches not in the program who want premium estimates can obtain an application to complete beforehand from the Conference office.

IAB was founded in 1982 in the Northern California Conference. Today it serves all parts of the United Church of Christ, and it recognized by the Council of Conference Ministers.

For information, applications and cluster meeting times, call the Conference office at (404) 633-5655.

## OCWM RECEIPTS FOR YEAR, DECEMBER 31, 1991

CHURCHES By Association	FOURTH QUARTER	TOTAL For Year
<b>ALABAMA-TENNESSEE TOTAL</b>	32,877.21	93,273.16
Alpine, AL, King's Chapel	0.00	138.00
Athens, AL, Trinity	0.00	0.00
Belvidere, TN, First	3,220.79	6,310.09
Birmingham, AL, First	2,250.00	5,150.00
Birmingham, AL, Pilgrim	1,800.00	5,200.00
Chattanooga, TN, First	0.00	0.00
Chattanooga, TN, Pilgrim	7,128.20	21,385.50
Crossville, TN, United	1,050.00	3,776.50
Cullman, AL, St. John's	2,700.00	8,100.00
Deer Lodge, TN, Deer Lodge	300.00	1,200.00
Fairfield Glade, TN, Community	843.75	3,000.00
Garden City, AL, Garden City	115.50	462.00
Hanceville, AL, Mountain Grove	150.00	150.00
Huntsville, AL, United	2,800.00	8,400.00
Knoxville, TN, Church of the Savior	2,250.00	2,250.00

Marion, AL, First	0.00	50.00
Montgomery, AL, First	1,900.00	3,800.00
Nashville, TN, First	1,249.97	4,166.66
Nashville, TN, Brookmeade	0.00	50.00
Nashville, TN, Howard	500.00	500.00
Pleasant Hill, TN, Community	4,479.00	17,600.00
Robbins, TN, Barton Chapel	0.00	300.00
Sunbright, TN, Glenmary	0.00	800.00
Sweetwater, TN, First	0.00	250.00
Talladega, AL, First	100.00	100.00
Tougaloo, MS, Union	0.00	0.00
Waverly, TN, United	40.00	160.00

<b>EAST ALABAMA-WEST GEORGIA TOTAL</b>	<b>4,049.00</b>	<b>18,496.00</b>
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Alexander City, AL, First	0.00	266.00
Columbus, GA, United	0.00	0.00
Dadeville, AL, Elder	38.00	539.00
East Tallassee, AL, East Tallassee	0.00	0.00
Eclectic, AL, Watson's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Five Points, AL, State Line	0.00	47.00
LaFayette, AL, Pleasant Grove	401.00	1,155.00
LaGrange, GA, Hillside	0.00	0.00
LaGrange, GA, United	490.00	2,080.00
Lanett, AL, Lanett	618.00	4,418.00
Langdale, AL, Langdale	48.00	428.00
Phenix City, AL, Russell Woods	285.00	1,425.00
Pine Mountain, GA, Oak Grove	772.00	1,722.00
Roanoke, AL, Antioch	143.00	714.00
Roanoke, AL, Bethany	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, AL, First	0.00	712.00
Roanoke, AL, Forest Home	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, AL, New Hope	0.00	570.00
Roanoke, AL, North Main	143.00	429.00
Roanoke, AL, Rock Stand	0.00	350.00
Valley, AL, Pine Forest	133.00	1,064.00
Valley, AL, Todd	0.00	0.00
Wadley, AL, Corinth	238.00	357.00
Wedowee, AL, Noon Day	0.00	0.00
Woodbury, GA, Jones Chapel	740.00	2,220.00

<b>SOUTH ALABAMA-NW FLORIDA TOTAL</b>	<b>375.00</b>	<b>1,100.00</b>
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Andalusia, AL, Antioch	0.00	0.00
Andalusia, AL, First	220.00	550.00
Baker, FL, Good Hope	0.00	0.00

Baker, FL, Pyron	100.00	300.00
Bonifay, FL, New Effort	0.00	0.00
Brantley, AL, Indian Creek	0.00	0.00
Brantley, AL, Liberty	0.00	0.00
Clio, AL, New Hope	0.00	0.00
Headland, AL, Blackwood	55.00	250.00
<b>GEORGIA-SOUTH CAROLINA TOTAL</b>	<b>21,210.34</b>	<b>61,475.61</b>
Atlanta, GA, Carroll Heights	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, GA, Central	9,800.00	32,200.00
Atlanta, GA, First	5,500.00	11,000.00
Atlanta, GA, Rush	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, GA, Southwest	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, GA, UCC	0.00	0.00
Barnesville, GA, Fredonia	0.00	0.00
Beachton, GA, Evergreen	0.00	495.00
Braselton, GA, Macedonia	0.00	0.00
Buford, GA, Duncan's Creek	0.00	0.00
Charleston, SC, Circular	2,000.02	4,666.70
Charleston, SC, Plymouth	1,160.00	1,160.00
Columbia, SC, Pilgrim	0.00	0.00
Demorest, GA, Federated	226.97	453.91
Dewey Rose, GA, Liberty	250.00	400.00
Jonesboro, GA, Trinity	1,500.00	6,000.00
Lilburn, GA, Button Gwinnett	500.00	500.00
Macon, GA, First	0.00	0.00
Marietta, GA, Pilgrimage	833.32	2,500.00
Midway, GA, Midway	0.00	600.00
Savannah, GA, First	600.00	1,200.00
Thomasville, GA, Bethany	0.00	300.00

## Volunteers Sought by Church-Related Groups

Through the United Church Board of Homeland Ministries, a number of short-term and summer volunteer opportunities are available at church-related missions and institutions.

The full-time opportunities are open to persons 18 years of age through senior citizen, and room and board is generally provided.

In 1992, opportunities are available at the following places in the Southeastern United States:

Appalachia Habitat for Humanity, Robbins, TN. One or two summer volunteers for building housing.

Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS. Work camp for painting houses of low income persons. Summer volunteer sought for working with work camp groups.



Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, Blowing Rock, NC. Three summer volunteers sought for providing guest services.

Franklinton Center in Enfield, NC. A rural life and educational leadership center. Seeking volunteers year round for specialized areas, and summer volunteers for youth camp.

Jubilee Partners, Comer, GA. An ecumenical Christian community which hosts Central American refugees. Volunteers sought for January-May, June-July, and September-December.

Koinonia Partners in Americus, GA. A Christian community and service organizations. Volunteers sought for three month periods in spring, summer and fall.

Morgan-Scott Project, Deer Lodge, TN. The cooperative Christian concerns project seeks four year round and summer volunteers to coordinate various programs.

United Church Retirement Centers, Newton and Thomasville, NC. Volunteers sought for a minimum of three months for all phases of program assistance.

For information on these and other opportunities, please call Susan M. Sanders, Voluntary Service Program, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Cleveland, OH, at (216) 736-3266.

## **Former Moderator Franklin Thomas Dies**

Franklin W. Thomas, Sr., a former moderator of the Southeast Conference and assistant moderator of the General Synod, died Wednesday, Jan. 14, in Atlanta.

Mr. Thomas, who served in numerous positions in his local church, association, Conference, and denomination, died of heart failure due to complications from pneumonia.

Services for Mr. Thomas were held Saturday, January 18, at First Congregational Church, UCC, of Atlanta, where his wife, Jean, is a member.

A memorial service was held the same day at Central Congregational United Church of Christ in DeKalb County where he was a member and was currently serving as moderator.

Born in Winston-Salem, N.C., he was the son of Rev. George J. Thomas, a Congregational minister, and Winnie C. Thomas. He was a graduate of Talladega College, and received a master's degree from George Williams College, Chicago. He did post-graduate work at Chicago Theological Seminary and Howard University Divinity School.

Mr. Thomas retired in December as deputy commissioner of the Georgia State Merit System. He had served previously as personnel director for the city of Atlanta, and at one time was the highest ranking black city official. He was a member of the corporate board of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. He had served previously as National President of Talladega College

Alumni, and as a member of the Governing Board of the National Council of Churches. He concluded his term as assistant Synod moderator in July.

He is survived by his wife, five children, three sisters and one brother.

Contributions may be made to the Franklin W. Thomas Sr. Scholarship Fund at Talladega College, Talladega, AL.

## **Rev. Fletcher C. Lester, Led Southern Convention**

The Rev. Fletcher C. Lester, first superintendent of the Southern Convention of the former Congregational Christian Churches, a predecessor of the United Church of Christ, died in December at his home in Asheboro, NC. The Rev. Lester was 97.

He has served in the 1960s as interim pastor of New Hope Congregational Christian Church in Clio, AL. He was licensed in 1914 and ordained in 1916 by the former Christian Church.

Born in North Carolina, he was a graduate of Elon College and Yale Divinity School. Memorial gifts can be made to Elon College or to the United Church Board for World Ministries.

## **UPCOMING**

### **Shelby Rooks Selected as Keynoter**

The Annual Meeting Committee has selected the Rev. Shelby Rooks, former Executive Vice President of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, as keynote speaker for the upcoming 26th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference. The Annual Meeting will be held June 12-14 at First Congregational Church, UCC, of Atlanta and the downtown Ramada Inn. William Jackson and First Church is chair of the program committee. Deadline for resolutions to the Resolutions Committee is April 3.

### **Clergy and Spouse Retreat**

The Clergy and Spouse Retreat of the Southeast Conference will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday on Feb. 21-23 at Shocco Springs Retreat and Conference Center, Talladega, AL. The theme of the reflection and relaxation event is "Minister as Person." The Revs. Joe and Win Smith, two married Disciples of Christ ministers, are the resource leaders. Call the Conference office at (404) 633-5655 for further information.

### **'Called to Care' Workshops**

Ervin Milton, Southern Region Associate for the Office of Church Life and Leadership, will hold two workshops on "Called to Care," a resource for lay caregivers. Workshops on the lay pastoral care program will be at 6:30-9 p.m. Friday, March 6, at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, in Chattanooga, TN, and 1-4 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Atlanta. Copies of the resource book, "Called to Care," are available from the Office of Church Life and Leadership, for \$45.95 by calling 1-800-325-7061.

## **Ala-Tenn Meetings**

The Alabama-Tennessee Association has scheduled cluster programs at First United Church of Christ in Belvidere, TN, on Saturday, Feb. 15, for the Southeast Tennessee Cluster; at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Birmingham, AL, for the Mid-Alabama Cluster; and at United Christian Church in Crossville, TN, Saturday, March 7, for the Northeast Tennessee Cluster. The 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (CST) sessions will have two presentations on church self-study and analytic tools for churches. A second round is planned for Saturday, April 25 in Crossville, TN; Saturday, May 9 in Belvidere; and Saturday, May 16 in Birmingham. The program will focus on the health care crisis. For information, call John Lackey at (615) 584-7531.

## **Fun at Camp Calvin**

A "Fun and Get Acquainted" for persons in the Georgia-South Carolina Association will be held from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 29, at Camp Calvin near Jonesboro, GA. The event is hosted by the Christian Education Committee. For information, call the Conference office at (404) 633-5655.

## **Dr. Rumer to Address Church Women United**

The Annual Georgia Assembly of Church Women United will meet at Central Congregational United Church of Christ in Atlanta, GA, on Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11. Dr. Patricia Rumer, General National Director of Church Women United and a member of the United Church of Christ, will deliver the keynote address Friday evening and lead a workshop entitled "After the Jubilee: What?" on Saturday. The assembly has three other workshops, including one on a proposed state lottery. Registration for the event is \$12. For information, call Bettie Durrah at (404) 691-6709.

## **CHURCH AND PEOPLE NOTES**

**CIRCULAR ALTERS PRESBYTERIAN TIE:** Circular Congregational Church, UCC, Charleston, S.C., voted in its Annual Meeting in January to alter its full membership in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and to retain full ties with the United Church of

Christ. The decision changes the historic Presbyterian affiliation of the 300-year-old church to an "ecumenical partnership." As a union church of Presbyterian and UCC bodies, Circular owns its own property.

The decision to amend the church's constitution leaves unaffected its relationship with the United Church of Christ. The congregation also voted to elevate to co-pastor with the Rev. Bert Keller, UCC assistant minister the Rev. Susan Hull.

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**NEW MINISTRY:** The Rev. Douglas Garner, an ordained Disciples of Christ minister, has been called as pastor of Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church UCC, Pine Mountain, Ga., effective in January ... Michael Shannon, a member of Central Congregational United Church of Christ, Atlanta, GA, will be ordained Feb. 28 ... The Georgia-South Carolina Association granted privilege of call to the Rev. Jim Watkins, former pastor of Emory Baptist Church, Atlanta ... Robert Brumfield has been called as pastor of Pyron Chapel, Baker, FL ... Win Clark has been called as pastor of New Hope Congregational Christian Church, Clio, AL ... Renae Koehler-Gupta is the new minister of education at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Birmingham, AL.

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**MINISTRY CHANGES:** The Rev. John Lackey, pastor for 16 years at Church of the Savior, UCC, of Knoxville, TN, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1992 ... Rev. Michael Small, pastor of First United Church of Christ, Belvidere, TN, will leave in May to pastor a church in Hackensack-Walker, MN ... The Rev. Gerald M. Sanders resigned Dec. 31 as executive director of Biblical Witness Fellowship in Knoxville, TN, to pastor The Church at Our House, UCC, Mililani, HI.

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**CHURCH NEWS:** Knoxville's Church of the Savior, UCC, and Canaan Baptist Church of Christ are planning an interracial Bible Study series to begin in March ... Rev. Frank Barker of Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, AL, was the Missions Conference speaker at St. John's United Church of Christ, Cullman, AL, on Feb. 2-3 ... Pilgrim Congregational Church, collected six carloads of food, clothes and toys for the needy at Christmas ... King's Chapel Congregational Church, UCC, Alpine, AL, held Watch Night services led by Marvin Dates on Dec. 31 ... Youth at Lanett Congregational Christian Church, UCC, Lanett, AL, made 90 fruit baskets for local inmates as well as 38 more for church members at Christmas ... Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC, of Pleasant Hill, TN, and Brookmeade Congregational

Church, UCC, Nashville, TN, hosted 11 Japanese as part of the Neighbor to Neighbor tour in January.

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**PEOPLE AT WORK:** Rev. John Schofield conducted the morning devotionals on a local radio station on Jan. 20-24 in Lanett ... The Rev. Bob Kurtz, pastor of First United Church (E&R), Nashville, TN, delivered the Christmas message to Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention USA in December.

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**CONCERNS & CELEBRATIONS:** Rev. James Myers, pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC, Birmingham, AL, had surgery in December ... Also undergoing surgery was Rev. Jerry Fields, Trinity Congregational Church, UCC, Athens, AL ... retired Rev. Joe Brown had a pacemaker implanted in December ... Rev. Ed Schneider, pastor of Pleasant Hill (TN) Community Church, was hospitalized in December for a pulmonary embolism ... At the Southeast Conference office, Conference Minister Roger Knight broke his ankle in November, and not to be outdone, administrative assistant Alice Lawrence broke her knee in December ... Rev. Charles Melvin, new pastor of Good Hope Congregational Christian Church, Baker, FL, will marry Glenda Miller in February ... Kristi Nyquist, wife of Rev. Steve Nyquist, associate at St. John's United Church, UCC, Cullman, AL, had a baby boy, Cooper Winfield, on New Year's Day.

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*Do you have church news to share? To make the May edition of the Southeast News, please mail a news release, church bulletin or newsletter by April 1 to Editor, Southeast News, Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.*

## **THE SOUTHEAST NEWS**

Published by the Southeast Conference  
United Church of Christ

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Georgia-South Carolina Association Moderator, Judy Manning  
South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association Moderator, Woody Clark  
Editor, Tony Healy  
Publication schedule: February, May, August, October, December  
(404) 633-5655 (phone and FAX)  
Mail news and other material to:  
Southeast News Editor, Southeast Conference  
P.O. Box 29883  
Atlanta, Georgia 30359

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**This transcription was recorded on August 5, 6, 8, and 12, 2013 by Mike Stroud, director of Project 66-16, an initiative to record, compile and write the history of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ.**

